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UNCLAS MAPUTO 000230

SIPDIS
FOR SPAS/POL - BINGRAM
E.O. 12958: N/A
TAGS: [AFSI](#) [AFSN](#) [MZ](#) [PGOV](#)
SUBJECT: NOMINATION FOR POLITICAL LES/FSNS TRAINING

APRIL 3-15, 2005
REF: STATE 12397

[1](#)1. Personal information for nominee:

- a) Name: Naimo Vasco ANTONIO
 - b) Grade 9
 - c) Began service with DOS: March 1999
 - d) English language ability: fluent written/spoken
 - e) Previous Training in US: Political Training for FSNS, May 15-28, 2000
 - f) Supervisor at post: Cynthia Brown, Econ/Pol Officer, BrownCA@state.gov
- Post will cover costs for airfare, local transportation and M&IE.

[1](#)2. Serving as the sole Political FSN at Embassy Maputo, Mr. Antonio manages an extensive portfolio of issues including human rights, domestic political developments, judicial sector reform, regional and bilateral relations, religious freedom, and corruption. Principal duties include gathering information from media sources, government publications, and contact with members of the government and civil society for reporting purposes; cultivating working-level and senior-level contacts at appropriate government ministries, political parties, municipal governments, and non-governmental organizations; coordinating high-level mission travel within the country; and drafting reports on various issues within his portfolio, including contributions to Post's annual Human Rights Report, International Religious Freedom Report, and Trafficking in Persons Report. Mr. Antonio also provides daily briefings for the Ambassador and DCM on political developments and current events. In addition, Mr. Antonio performs accounting and project oversight for the Embassy's Democracy and Human Rights Fund (DHRF). Mr. Antonio is the senior of two LES/FSNS in the combined Economic/Political Section, and serves as back-up Economic/Commercial specialist as needed.

[1](#)3. Embassy Maputo receives a large number of official visits. As one of only two official interpreters at the Embassy, Mr. Antonio is often called upon to provide essential interpreting services for visitors during high-level meetings. He is also responsible for drafting and translating reports and official correspondences from English to Portuguese.

[1](#)4. On February 2, Armando Emilio Guebuza was inaugurated as the President of the Republic of Mozambique, succeeding Joaquim Chissano who stepped down after serving 18 years in office. This change in leadership has brought about a significant turnover in government officials and a restructuring of several government institutions, with consequent increased demands on the Political section for accurate and updated reporting on key persons and policies. Although Mr. Antonio participated in a class on Political Training for FSNS in 2000, Post strongly feels that further training in interviewing, briefing, drafting, interpreting/translating and sharing new knowledge would be beneficial at this juncture. This course will be critical in ensuring that Mr. Antonio has the necessary skills to assist Post in gathering essential background information on the incoming government and establishing productive working relationships with wide array of new public officials and their staff. As a well-respected, senior FSN in the embassy community, Mr. Antonio will be able use the knowledge and skills obtained through this training to assist others within the Embassy in meeting the challenge of working with the new Mozambican administration.

LA LIME